(c) the persons/organisations involved in the racket with the details thereof;

(d) the action taken so far against the culprits; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to prevent such inhuman act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Crimes in Vasant Kunj, Delhi

†4305. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of looting, theft and dacoity occurred in Vasant Kunj area during the last six months;

(b) the reasons of such incidents; and

(c) the areas which are being patrolled by the police during night and the measures taken by Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The requisite details are given below:—

Looting	—	4
Theft (including vehicle theft)	—	134
Dacoity	—	1

(b) These are acts of desperadoes which it is not always possible to predict and prevent.

(c) Night patrolling is done by the foot patrol; motorcycle patrol; and PCR vehicles in almost each area. The intensity of patrolling is also adjusted after analysis of most vulnerable period of crime. The

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

other steps taken to improve the crime situation include posting of armed pickets at strategic points; strengthening of intelligence network; close watch on and frequent raids at the suspected hide-outs of criminals and terrorists; verification of antecedents of domestic servants; increased surveillance on history sheeters; coordination meeting with officers of neighbouring States; meetings with members of Residents Welfare Associations; formation of anti-terrorist cell in each Police District; and deployment of police personnel in plain clothes in running buses, market places, business places and other crime-prone places.

Premature release of Purulia Arms case accused

4306. *SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HOME* AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the premature release of Purulia arms accused during the pendency of their appeal;

(b) whether the British Government has asked for the premature release of Peter Bleach and whether Government is considering such a request; and

(c) the reasons why Government have not asked for the release of 12 Indians in Russian Jails?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) A decision for premature release of the 5 convicted Latvians was taken keeping in view the compassionate aspects of the case.

(b) The British Government has sought release of Peter Bleach. The request is under examination.

(c) As a result of Government of India's efforts for Presidential Amnesty/Mercy in the case of all the convicted Indian nationals in Russian Jails, five Indian nationals have been released till the end of February, 2001 from Russian Jails and in the case of one Indian national, there has been a reduction in his prison term.